



Arizona Police Association Annual Conference

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Good morning!

It's always an honor to speak to you, because I have such admiration for what you do – for what you do EVERY DAY.

I know danger is a part of your job.

You put on the uniform, and you say to Arizona citizens, "I am here for you, I will protect you, I will keep you safe, risking my own life, if necessary."

I know of no other group more fully committed to the well-being of others than you, right here, in this room.

That's why I'm especially pleased with the close relationship that has developed between my staff and the APA since I became Governor.

When I DID take over as Governor, I faced a state budget deficit of nearly five billion dollars -- across two fiscal years -- and a federal government whose unfunded mandates and sweetheart deals were stealing Arizona's freedom and threatening to bankrupt our state.

Wholesale change was needed – and -- the truth is -- in less than 600 days, WE'VE CHANGED EVERYTHING – and, we've changed it for the BETTER.

We've changed the size of government.

We've changed the way government does business.

My first official act as Governor was to issue a moratorium on rules, to reduce the regulatory burden on Arizona businesses.

And, I've been calling for tax reform since March 2009.

We must establish a more friendly tax code to retain existing employers, attract new investment capital and create high wage, sustainable jobs.

And, when it comes to encouraging job creation, I'm committed to preparing for the future with new ideas and innovation.

That's why I established the Arizona Commerce Authority and a private-sector leadership board focused on growing and diversifying Arizona's economy and creating quality jobs – including jobs in rural Arizona.

This quasi-public Authority replaced the old Commerce Department. We're introducing a 21st Century approach to advance Arizona's economy.

I've committed 20 million dollars to advance its mission through its approach to economic development.

Meanwhile, we've now attracted BILLIONS in new capital investment. AND, we've attracted NEW companies to Arizona -- creating over seven thousand new jobs for Arizonans.

Meanwhile, I'm ever mindful of the role education plays in job creation and sustaining the Arizona Comeback.

If we're going to build the economy for Arizona's second century, we must today begin preparing students and expect them to reach high academic standards.

To that end, we've enacted some of the most sweeping reforms in education that the state has seen.

Our universities also play an important role both in educating and preparing students and in innovating and growing our economy.

First, of course, in order for our state to be competitive as a location for companies and to propel growth, we need to increase the number of Arizonans with a college degree.

One of my first directives to the higher education system when I became Governor was to increase the number of college graduates -- and to do it in a more cost effective way.

From my first days in office as Governor, I've been demanding that the Obama administration fulfill ITS OWN security responsibilities to the citizens of our state:

-- Secure our southern border, enhance the rule of law, and protect Arizonans -- and ALL Americans -- from violence committed by organized crime syndicates, out-of-control drug cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals.

Legislation I signed into law -- Senate Bill 1070 -- supported by statewide law enforcement organizations -- and the vast majority of Arizonans -- simply provides local sworn officers the same legal tools provided to federal authorities and their local law enforcement partners for many years.

I reject the Obama administration's notion that Arizona's border security is better than ever.

The only thing that MIGHT be better than ever is the quality of the new signs the federal government put up ... warning signs on lands INSIDE our state, some as close as 30 miles to Phoenix, telling our own CITIZENS to keep out!

That's not protection, that's SURRENDER!

What is the height of hypocrisy is that my opponent -- and the entire Democrat ticket -- have been endorsed and supported by the very same union, the Service Employees International Union -- which is leading the boycott of Arizona.

Their mission is to HURT Arizona -- to kill Arizona jobs.

So, tell me, how can anyone credibly create jobs in Arizona when one of his principle supporters is sponsoring the economic boycott of Arizona?

And, simply put, it is downright OFFENSIVE that the Obama State Department included the State of Arizona and SB 1070 in a report to the United Nations Council on Human Rights.

Council members include such renowned human rights "champions" as Cuba and Libya.

Think about it.

Our own American government is submitting the duly enacted laws of Arizona for "review" by the United Nations.

So, we've been forced to act on our own -- to defend our own safety and security.

And I think Washington has heard us now, don't you?

I'm also fighting ObamaCare and the eleven billion dollars it will cost Arizona over the next decade.

Health Care regulation is a power reserved to the STATES by the 10th Amendment. Congress has OVERREACHED by REQUIRING individuals to purchase health insurance -- and penalizing them if they don't.

And now a Florida U.S. District Judge has allowed our lawsuit -- and that of 19 other states -- to move forward on its merits. That ruling affirms my decision to join the multistate challenge to ObamaCare on behalf of Arizona and it confirms just how wrong the Arizona Attorney General was when he refused my request to join the bipartisan lawsuit. At the time, he dismissed our claims as "legally dubious."

Well, a federal judge has now pronounced the Arizona Attorney General's legal perspective ... flat wrong.

I believe we can move forward, creating more jobs and economic prosperity, or we can move backward toward socialism -- and more government, more spending, more regulation.

I want to create jobs; not kill them.

I'm working for jobs and the people of Arizona -- and the right for the truth to be heard, always.

Now, I know this might be controversial with you, but, I'm a truth-teller, so let's clear the air right now, so there's no doubt about where I stand.

As you know, I'm on record as supporting privatization options.

I want to be clear, though, about my limits.

First, I am NOT interested in the privatization of Level 4 or 5 facilities.

Second, with respect to medium and lower security level facilities, I am open to a REASONABLE balance of private and public prison options, depending on the population.

I am NOT in support of exclusively public or exclusively private scenarios at any of the minimum through medium security levels.

And, let me be perfectly clear. Above all else, public safety comes first -- no matter if they are public or private facilities!

There is no higher priority for me than public safety -- that is why we fought for -- and won -- passage of Proposition 100.

We stand together on the same path, setting forth on the same journey to serve and protect the people of the great State of Arizona.

God bless you and your families, God bless the men and women of the Arizona Police Association, and may God bless the great state of Arizona. Thank you.